

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method for providing return of items via a network and via an item return location, the method comprising:

receiving a selection to return an item;

5 receiving information relating to the item to be returned;

determining return information for the item from the received information relating to the item to be returned;

assigning coded information relating to the item to be returned, the coded information being associated with the determined return information;

10 transmitting the coded information via the network, the coded information to be provided with return of the item;

at the item return location, reading the provided coded information;

accessing the determined return information; and

evaluating the item for return based on the determined return information.

15 2. The method of Claim 1, wherein the information relating to the item to be returned includes information about a returnee.

3. The method of Claim 1, wherein the return information includes a determination whether the item is returnable.

4. The method of Claim 1, wherein the item to be returned includes
20 components, and wherein the information relating to the item to be returned includes a list of the components.

5. The method of Claim 1, wherein determining return information for the item from the received information relating to the item to be returned comprises:

determining whether the item is opened.

25 6. The method of Claim 1, wherein determining return information for the item from the received information relating to the item to be returned comprises:

determining whether the item is damaged.

7. The method of Claim 1, wherein information relating to the item to be returned includes information regarding whether the item is opened.

30 8. The method of Claim 1, wherein information relating to the item to be returned includes information regarding whether the item is damaged.

9. The method of Claim 1, wherein the coded information comprises a bar code.

10. The method of Claim 1, wherein the coded information comprises a printable form.

5 11. The method of Claim 1, wherein transmitting the coded information via the network comprises:

transmitting the coded information to a terminal.

12. The method of Claim 11, wherein the terminal is coupled to a printer.

10 13. The method of Claim 12, wherein the coded information is printed on the printer.

14. The method of Claim 13, wherein reading the provided coded information comprises:

reading the printed coded information.

15 15. The method of Claim 13, wherein the printed coded information comprises a printed bar code, and wherein reading the printed coded information comprises:

a bar code reader reading the printed bar code.

16. The method of Claim 1, wherein the network is the Internet.

20 17. The method of Claim 1, further comprising: storing the received information relating to the item to be returned.

18. The method of Claim 1, further comprising: storing the determined return information.

19. The method of Claim 1, wherein the determined return information is stored in a repository.

25 20. The method of Claim 19, wherein the repository comprises a database.

21. The method of Claim 19, wherein accessing the determined return information comprises:

retrieving the determined return information from the repository.

30 22. The method of Claim 4, wherein evaluating the item for return based on the determined return information includes:

determining if the list of components matches the components for the item to be returned.

23. The method of Claim 5, further comprising:

if the item is opened, auctioning the item.

5 24. The method of Claim 23, wherein the item is auctioned using a reverse auction.

25. The method of Claim 3, further comprising:

if the item is returnable, warehousing the item.

26. The method of Claim 5, further comprising:

10 if the item is not opened, warehousing the item.

27. The method of Claim 5, further comprising:

if the item is not opened, shipping the item to a customer.

28. The method of Claim 1, wherein the determined return information includes disposition instructions for the item.

15 29. The method of Claim 1, wherein the read provided coded information is stored in a repository.

30. The method of Claim 29, wherein the item is sold by a merchant.

31. The method of Claim 30, further comprising:

providing access for the merchant to the repository.

20 32. The method of Claim 31, wherein the repository is accessible via the network.

33. A system for providing return of an item via a network, comprising:

a server, the server being accessible by at least one terminal via the network for obtaining return of the item and for transmitting coded information to the at least one terminal;

25 a return location terminal coupled to the server via the network; and
a coded information reader coupled to the return location terminal;
wherein the server receives a selection to return an item from the at least one terminal;

30 wherein the server receives information relating to the item to be returned;

wherein the server determines return information for the item from the received information relating to the item to be returned;

wherein the server assigns coded information relating to the item to be returned, the coded information being associated with the determined return information;

wherein the server transmits the coded information to the at least one terminal via the network, the coded information to be provided with return of the item;

wherein the coded information reader reads the provided coded information; and

wherein the return location terminal accesses the determined return information.

34. The system of Claim 33, wherein the information relating to the item to be returned includes information about a returnee.

35. The system of Claim 33, wherein the return information includes a determination whether the item is returnable.

36. The system of Claim 33, wherein the item to be returned includes components, and wherein the information relating to the item to be returned includes a list of the components.

37. The system of Claim 33, wherein determining return information for the item from the received information relating to the item to be returned comprises:

determining whether the item is opened.

38. The system of Claim 33, wherein the server determines return information for the item from the received information relating to the item to be returned by determining whether the item is damaged.

39. The system of Claim 33, wherein information relating to the item to be returned includes information regarding whether the item is opened.

40. The system of Claim 33, wherein information relating to the item to be returned includes information regarding whether the item is damaged.

41. The system of Claim 33, wherein the coded information comprises a bar code.

42. The system of Claim 33, wherein the coded information comprises a printable form.

5 43. The system of Claim 33, wherein the at least one terminal is coupled to a printer.

44. The system of Claim 43, wherein the coded information is printed on the printer.

10 45. The system of Claim 44, wherein the printed coded information comprises a printed bar code, and wherein the coded information reader comprises a bar code reader.

46. The system of Claim 33, wherein the network is the Internet.

47. The system of Claim 33, wherein the at least one terminal is coupled to the network via a coupling.

15 48. The system of Claim 47, wherein the coupling comprises one from a group consisting of a wired connection, a wireless connection, and a fiberoptic connection.

20 49. The system of Claim 33, wherein the at least one terminal comprises one selected from a group consisting of a personal computer, a minicomputer, a microcomputer, a main frame computer, a hand held device, and a telephone device.

25 50. The system of Claim 33, wherein the return location terminal comprises one selected from a group consisting of a personal computer, a minicomputer, a microcomputer, a main frame computer, a hand held device, and a telephone device.

51. The system of Claim 33, wherein the server comprises one selected from a group consisting of a personal computer, a minicomputer, a microcomputer, and a main frame computer.

30 52. The system of Claim 33, wherein the server comprises a storage device, the storage device including an accessible repository.

53. The system of Claim 33, further comprising:

a repository server coupled to the server, the repository server comprising a storage device, wherein the storage device includes an accessible repository.

54. The method of Claim 52, wherein the accessible repository comprises a database.

5 55. A method for a returnee to return an item purchased from a first party via a second party, the method comprising:

the first party receiving information relating to the item and producing return information;

the first party transmitting coded information to the returnee;

10 the second party receiving the coded information; and

the second party accessing the produced return information to determine whether to accept return of the item.

56. A system for providing return of items via a network and via an item return location, the system comprising:

15 means for receiving a selection to return an item;

means for receiving information relating to the item to be returned;

means for determining return information for the item from the received information relating to the item to be returned;

means for assigning coded information relating to the item to be returned,

20 the coded information being associated with the determined return information;

means for transmitting the coded information via the network, the coded information to be provided with return of the item;

at the item return location, means for reading the provided coded information;

25 means for accessing the determined return information; and

means for evaluating the item for return based on the determined return information.